

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 SSM-03 CIAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7689
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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 12448

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG US IS XF
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN COMMENT ON PEACE PROCESS

REF: CAIRO 12350

1. EGYPTIAN PRESS HAS CONTINUED ESCHEW COMMENT ON
STATE OF PLAY IN ME PEACE PROCESS. PAPERS REPORT FACTUALLY
SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD'S AND JORDANIAN KING HUSAYN'S
INTERVIEWS WITH DE BORCHGRAVE, INCLUDING THEIR PUBLIC
REJECTION OF GEGIN'S WASHINGTON PROPOSAL. HOWEVER,
THERE NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THIS ISSUE THUS FAR.
PAPERS ALSO CARRY ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS ON
RETURN TO ISRAEL WITHOUT COMMENT.

2. PAPERS STATE HEAD OF JORDANIAN ROYAL COURT, ABDEL
HAMID SHARAF, DUE TO VISIT EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA PRIOR
TO SECRETARY VANCE'S MIDDLE EASTERN TRIP IN EFFORT
COORDINATE ARAB POLICIES. NO INDICATION GIVEN OF MESSAGE
HE PURPORTEDLY WILL DELIVER TO PRESIDENT SADAT AND KING
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KHALID.

2. DE BOUCHGRAVE INTERVIEW WITH SADAT TENTATIVELY
SCHEDULED FOR JULY 23 OR 24 DID NOT COME OFF. DE BORCHGRAVE
WAS TOLD HE COULD SEE SADAT AFTER VANCE VISIT WHICH
SUGGESTS IT COULD BE RELATED TO SADAT'S DECISION TO
AVOID COMMENT ON BEGIN VISIT. HOWEVER, SADAT MAY STILL

BE SMARTING OVER WHAT HE CONSIDERS TO HAVE BEEN DE
BORCHGRAVE'S 1974 PUBLICATION OF REMARKS SADAT CLAIMS
WERE OFF THE RECORD.

3. SADAT IS SCHEDULED DELIVER TRADITIONAL JULY 26
ADDRESS IN ALEXANDRIA TONIGHT--- HIS FORTH TELEVISION
APPEARANCE IN THE PAST 10 DAYS. MAIN SUBJECT REPORTED
TO BE RECENT CLASHES WITH LIBYA. WILL BE INTERESTING TO
SEE WHETHER HE CONTINUES AVOID COMMENT ON
PEACE PROCESS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW PUBLICATION ASSAD
AND HUSAYN INTERVIEWS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE GOE ADHERING TO DECISION NOT TO
RESPOND TO BEGIN'S PROPOSALS AND TO AVOID POLEMICS
IN ANTICIPATION OF SECRETARY'S VISIT, THERE ARE SIGNS OF
PESSIMISM CREEPING INTO PRIVATE COMMENTS OF WELL INFORMED
GOE OFFICIALS. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY DISMAYED BY BEGIN'S
ADAMANT REFUSAL TO ACCEPT PLO IN ANY FORM AT GENEVA,
HIS POSITION ON WEST BANK, AND ALTERNATE PROPOSAL FOR
PROXIMITY TALKS, ALL OF WHICH SEEN AS WAYS TO DRAG OUT
NEGOTIATING PROCESS AND AVOID CONFRONTING REAL ISSUES.
EGYPTIANS ALSO DISCOURAGED OVER \$250 MILLION ARMS AID
ANNOUNCED DURING BEGIN VISIT, AND WONDERING WHAT U.S.
GOT IN RETURN. ONE OFFICIAL REMARKED THAT ALTHOUGH
U.S. STATEMENTS ON ISRAELI POLICY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES,
WITHDRAWAL, AND PALESTINIAN HOMELAND WERE ENCOURAGING,
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THEY WERE " POSTURING RATHER THAN POLICY" UNLESS BACKED
UP WITH SUBSTANTIVE ACTION SUCH AS WITHHOLDING OF
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT FROM ISRAEL.
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